

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai.

The Annual Satsang will be held at an date earlier this year, -on the 18th of June to be exact, at 3.0pm. This change is the result of requests that the Meeting should be held in Summer rather than later in the year.

There will be an added sparkle to this year's Satsang; we will have a guest speaker from the UK., Mrs. Veena Patel. Accompanied by her husband, -she will be bringing with her the silver Padhugas (sandals), that were given a Universal Blessing by Swami, on 24th March, 2000.

Since the Blessing, Mrs. Patel has travelled with the Divine Shiva-Shakthi Padhugas, to many countries around the world; (too many to mention here).

The venue for the Satsang, will be the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin. *Ed.*

Swami On Jesus

This is the time of year when we focus and reflect our thoughts on the life, teachings and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sathya Sai has referred to Jesus in His many discourses and writings, and I have compiled a number of His remarks about Jesus' life and service, for your study.

Sai: *"Two thousand years ago, when narrow pride and thick ignorance defiled mankind, Jesus came as the embodiment of Love and Compassion and lived among men, holding forth the highest ideals of life...Jesus was to shatter the darkness that (enveloped) the world...He attracted people by His miracles and transformed them into apostles and exemplary servants of man...He attempted to rebuilt mankind on the basis of Love, but was crucified by little men who feared that their tiny towers of hate and greed would be toppled by His teachings...Jesus was a Master born with a purpose, -the mission of restoring Love, Charity and Compassion in the heart of man....He had no attachment to the self, nor paid any heed*

to joy or sorrow, loss or gain. He had a heart that responded to the call of anguish, and He went about the land preaching the lesson of Love. His life was a libation for the upliftment of humanity...The Name Jesus itself is not the original one. (His) original name was Isa, which when repeated, is Sai. Isa and Sai means Isvara, God, the Eternal Absolute, the Sat-Chit-Ananda. In the Tibetan manuscript at the monastery where Isa spent some years, His name is written as Issa, which means the Lord of all living beings.

"Like most seekers, He first searched for the Divine in the objective world, but He soon realised that the world is a kaleidoscopic picture created by one's own imagination, and sought to find God within Himself...Jesus wandered purposefully in lonely places for twelve long years, engaging Himself in study, spiritual exercises and meditation on God...For eight years following His 16th birthday, He travelled in India, Tibet, Iran and Russia. He was variously regarded as a beggar or as a sanyasi (monk). Jesus had no money. His parents were very poor and practically abandoned Him at an early age...He stayed in the Himalayan monasteries in Kashmir and in other centres of eastern asceticism and philosophical inquiry, gave him greater awareness. From the attitude of being a Messenger of God, He could now call Himself the Son of God. The bond of relationship increased: the 'I' was no more some distant light or entity; the light became a part of the 'I'...In Kashmir (He) met many exponents and practitioners of adwaita (at-one-ment) system of thought, which declares that there is only One God. ..He realised the Oneness beneath all diversity...As the Atman Consciousness was established, Jesus could declare, "I and My Father are One".

He saw that He was Christ in His 25th year...Jesus found that scholars and ritualists had befogged the true religion...He found that people were

running after glass beads, imagining them to be diamonds and attaching great value to them. When He entered the precincts of the Temple of Jerusalem, and found people sacrificing doves and birds, and other living beings to God, He released the birds and condemned the acts of blood. The priests and scholars resented His act and argued that the God in whom they had faith accepted the sacrifice and was propitiated thereby. They asked Him for evidence of His authority to interfere with the dictates of religion...The Jews held the rituals and regulations laid down by the prophets in the scriptural texts as valid for all time and so they held the teachings of Jesus wrong. They were not moved by personal hatred towards Jesus. This problem arises in every age, the conflict between the letter and spirit, the doctrines that are held to be holy, the various do's and don'ts that have to be scrupulously followed and the underlying Truth...the priests of the holy temples of Jerusalem had become corrupt and commercialised. They had deteriorated into proud and selfish men. Jesus condemned them and tried to root out the evil practices...(These) tradition-minded and egoistic men considered Jesus a false prophet and they tried by every means to thwart His mission. Jesus, however, did not waver...He was surrounded and bound, and crowned by the crowd who captured Him, with a crown of thorns. A thorny fence around a tree is clear proof that the tree has edible fruits in plenty...The Roman rulers were told that Jesus was attempting to assert Himself as king, and so could be punished for treason. Their insistence made the Governor order His crucifixion...(He) was nailed to the cross by His captors...When the nails were being driven into Him to fix Him to the cross, Jesus heard the voice of the Father saying, "All life is one, my dear son; be alike to every one"...He sacrificed Himself for the sake of mankind.

"Try to be like Jesus. Bring to mind the words Jesus uttered, the advice He offered, the warnings He gave, and decide to direct your daily lives along the path Jesus laid down...Follow Jesus Christ. Love for your own evolution...Follow your chosen path. Let your own Experience of God be your guide and Master...Your own heart shining with Love is God's Love...You are God. The true you is God." Ed.

Dharma protects those who protect dharma. BABA.

Water Project for Aboriginals.

Water projects have been on-going in drought areas of Southern India for some time. Now the Sai arm of compassion is extended to much needed areas of Australia. For some time now the Toomelah Aboriginal Community, have suffered from contaminated water that did not reach the standards of the Australia Health Regulations for drinking water, therefore they required treatment before drinking. Even what appears to be clean water can have high levels of microbiological contamination that can cause disease in humans.

They are about 40 km from Goondiwindi, near the Queensland and New South Wales border. Seventy families live there, including one hundred children, with basic facilities. The people there had been asking for clean drinking water since 1913, but nothing had been done.

The Sai Organisation there has been liaising with the community, resulting in a water purification system with a 1,000 litre storage tank being installed in 12 hours, on 4th Nov. '05. Elder Roger and Aunty Eda invited the Sai Volunteers to join them in the inaugural traditional Cleansing Ceremony, which they gladly did. Another community elder, Aunty Ada McGrady, commented that, "Many people and organisations come with promises but never come back to carry it out. But the Sai Organisation is very

different, and you will always be our friends. Today is a magical day in our lives, -at last something has come to Toomelah!"

As Aunty Ada drank the water, she said, "This is yummy!"

"The Sai Organisation is currently working with 25 indigenous schools in need of improvement and are looking at assisting the Toomelah preschool with a breakfast programme and bringing in their own doctors where need be," - *The Goondiwindi Argus*, (Nov. 23rd 2005) stated.

Navaratri means nine nights. Darkness is associated with night. what is this darkness? It is the darkness of ignorance. BABA.

Spiritual Quiz

test your Knowledge.

1. In the Indian epic Mahabharatha, how did Karna get his name?

- a/ Because he always listened to the advice of elders.
- b/ Because he had acute hearing abilities
- c/ Because he gave away his divine earrings to Lord Indra as charity.
- d/ Because he had oversized ears.

2. Complete Swami's famous saying, 'You cannot always oblige...'

- a/ -but you can help.
- b/ -that is life.
- c/ -but try harder next time.
- d/ -but you can always speak obligingly.

3. What important habit does Swami tell us to practise first upon waking up?

- a/ Clean the tongue.
- b/ Salute the Sun.
- c/ Drinking coffee.
- d/ Practising asanas.

4. What is the meaning of the name 'Raamaayana'?

- a/ The life of Rama.
- b/ The journey of Rama.
- c/ The song of Rama.
- d/ Rama's victory.

5. In the Bible, how did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?

- a/ They were whispered into his ear by God.

- b/ They were shown to him in a dream.
- c/ They were found by him inscribed onto stone tablets.
- d/ an angel gave them to him written on parchment.

6. A follower of the Buddha commonly recites 'The Three Refuges' to confirm his commitment to Buddhism. These are to take refuge in the Buddha, the 'Dhamma' and the 'Sangha'. What does 'Dhamma' refer to?

- a/ Ritualistic worship.
- b/ The teachings of the Buddha.
- c/ The life in heaven.
- d/ Prayer and fasting.

7. The foundation of the Muslim religion is based on the 'Five Pillars'. One of these is 'Zakah', -what does refer to?

- a/ The practice of giving alms.
- b/ Praying five times a day.
- c/ Reading of the Koran.
- d/ Making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

8. Complete this famous saying from Swami, 'Who is the poorest man in the world'.

- a/ The man with the least money.
- b/ He who does not follow a moral path.
- c/ He does not know God.
- d/ He who has the most desires.

9. 'Shivarathri' means "Auspicious night". How is Shivarathri celebrated in Prasanthi Nilayam?

- a/ By dance and music dedicated to Lord Siva.
- b/ By taking out Shiva's chariot into the streets.
- c/ By all-night Bhajans
- d/ By feeding the poor night long.

10. When Swami was a young boy He appeared in the Sanctum Sanctorum of a temple, whilst at the same time being outside the temple guarding His companions' baggage. This miracle of appearing in two places at once occurred at which temple?

- a/ Rameshwaram.
- b/ Sri Sailam.
- c/ Tirupati.
- d/ Hampi.

(Prepared by Radio Sai, -Heart2Heart'.)

Answers on back cover.

The relationship between time and action should be recognised. Every

action, whether good or bad, has its consequence. There is no action in the world which is devoid of consequence. This is the Law of Nature. For instance, when a finger is cut by a knife, immediately the finger starts bleeding, the result of the cut is instantaneous. However, when you sow a seed, it becomes a sapling after some days. But to bear fruit, it takes some years. Thus, every action has a consequence, but the time interval between action and result varies. One who is aware of this truth is unlikely to commit any wrong deeds because he knows that good deeds produce good results and deeds lead to bad consequences. Recognition of the Law of Karma will make men lead proper lives. Man today takes to wrong paths because he has not realised this truth. BABA.

The following article recently appeared in the South African newspaper, The Post.

Baba Serves, Saves.

The recent articles and letters on Sai Baba's miracles have prompted many of our readers to share their viewpoints on scriptures, miracles and manifestations, and which God to revere and worship.

In a country as diverse as ours, maybe a simple lesson can be learnt from India, i.e., religious tolerance.

Even Christianity and Islam flourishes in this holy land. But, it is sad that the many people who have been criticising Sai Baba and His miracles recently, are evidently ignorant about Him and His teachings.

As a Divine teacher His message to the world is to realise and recognise your own Divinity and to raise your level of God Consciousness.

Focus on true and eternal happenings and not on the tinsel trappings of this illusionary existence. If Hindu, become a better Hindu; if Muslim, become a better Muslim; and if Christian, become a better Christian. Sai has not come to convert anyone.

Many of His followers (are) of different faiths, including (those in) the West, recognise individual transformation as Sai's greatest miracle.

The ash and honey miracles in homes are for the benefit of those families that need renewed hope and faith in God, and to understand that the Creator is omnipresent as much as He is omniscient and omnipotent.

Like previous Divine incarnations; Jesus, Rama and Buddha, His mission is to serve and save mankind, and not interfere with the Laws of Nature, by preventing floods, 'quakes and tsunamis.

The many hundred poor villages and their millions of inhabitants, have benefited from Sai, through His generosity in education, medical, transportational, feeding, sheltering and clothing, and water projects.

Where the government of India found it impossible to supply tap water, Sai came to the rescue. Many orphaned children are under His care, each with their own bank accounts of one lakh rupees, for their future use.

On Sai's request, the Super Speciality Hospital, which serves the entire nation, free of charge, has not been entered in the Guinness Book of Records, since this state-of-the-art hospital was built and running within five months, some 15 years ago.

His Education in Human Values system is now being incorporated in Arabian states, in Africa, China and the West.

In His mercy, truckloads of food, clothing, medicines and tents, with doctors, nurses and assistants, were sent to provide relief to quake and tsunami victims.

This is the Bhagavan I know and have been worshipping for the past 17 years. I have also visited His many places of miracles and am always fascinated by them. I am now also learning to focus more on the Creator and less on His creations. Jai Sai Ram.

Dev Sewpersad, Newcastle.

You should know that you are born to achieve great and stupendous tasks in life. You are the children of God, heroes in action, great soldiers in the age of Kali, full of compassion and Divine Love, and resolved to make Divinity resound with success in the world. BABA.

The Statue & Tomb of Shirdi Sai

Pilgrims to Shirdi, for darshan at Baba's tomb, admire the extraordinary and exquisite image of Shirdi Baba's statue over His tomb. Many have commented on the lifelike quality of the eyes; they really do seem to look at you, as if responding to our prayers. After all, they say, He had repeatedly assured devotees that He would never cease to answer our call, and that His mission is 'to give blessings'.

The tomb has a powerful and intense pull on the many who visited since it was installed in 1954, thirty-six years after His mahasamadhi.

There is an intriguing story relating to it. One day a large block of white marble arrived from Italy to the docks at Bombay, but nobody seemed to know anything about it, who it was for, or why it had come. Lying unclaimed for sometime it was duly auctioned off, and the purchaser offered it to the Shirdi temple authorities. Duly impressed by the quality of the marble, they wanted to use it for an idol of Baba and gave the commission to a sculptor from Bombay, - B.V. Talim.

However, the latter only had one black and white photo of Baba as his model and was struggling to get the likeness. One night Baba came to him in a dream, and to resolve the difficulties, showed the sculptor His face from various angles, encouraging Talim to study it thoroughly and remember it well. After this the work flowed easily and the result exceeded all expectations.

The statue was installed on 7 October 1954, on Vijayadasami day.

It was the main object of adoration in Shirdi, the idol was accorded all due honours. Out of their love and devotion for Baba, the devotees wished to provide every comfort and respect they could muster. Accordingly, Baba was given a hot water bath each morning, offered breakfast, lunch and dinner. His clothes were changed four times a day after each arati and was, and still is, adorned with a silver or gold crown for the arati worship. At night a mosquito net is hung and the tomb is spread with a special white cloth, of plain cotton, of the kind that Baba's kafni was made. Each morning, at five o'clock, Baba is woken up, the mosquito net is removed and incense is offered. A glass of water is kept by His side.

After the first arati of the day, an abhishek (ritual bathing of the idol with water, milk curd, ghee, etc.) is performed.

Visitors may also donate cloth for Baba, which is wrapped around the statue. Later this cloth, that Baba 'wore' is put on sale in the Sansthan shop near the mandir. Many people like to buy cloth that had been sanctified in this way and are used for altars or other sacred purposes.

The town of Shirdi has become a place of worship and pilgrimage and contributes to the mystique and magic of what we call Shirdi.

God is not far from you or away in some distant place. He is within you in your own inner altar. Man suffers because he is unable to discover Him there and draw peace and joy from the discovery. Once man has discovered who he is, there is no need to discover who is God, for both are the same. When you come to know God is in you, you will value yourself much more. BABA.

Sathya Sai Baba has said;

“The Cosmos is the creation of the Divine. It is surcharged with energy. This energy is not localised at a particular point in space and time. Though this

energy is all-pervading, man is unable to recognise its Divine nature. As he cannot recognise it, he presumes that it does not exist. Electrical energy flows continuously in the wires. But, its presence is recognised only when a bulb is fitted and switched on. Likewise, though God is omnipresent, His Divine effulgence will shine only in those who adore Him with a pure heart.”

“ If you look to Me, I look to you.

If you cast your burden on Me,
I shall surely bear it.

If you seek My advice and help,
it shall be given to you at once.

There shall be no want in the house of
My devotee.”

Do not walk in front of Me, for I may not follow you. Do not walk behind Me, for I may leave you behind. Always walk with Me and hold My Hand.
BABA

‘No Problem’...said Swami

Whenever there is a programme for any event, like the opening of the first ever Seva Samithi Building in Venkatagiri, Swami oversees all the arrangements, like the cleaning, the food, etc. for He leaves nothing to chance.

On this occasion He arrived early with the Raja of Venkatagiri and inspected everything. When the function started He noticed a commotion, and on enquiring He was told that the garlands which were to be put on Swami and other persons, were too small. Swami smiled and said, *“I have to look after everything”*. Seeing three garlands He touched them and smiling, said, *“Parvaledhu”*, meaning *“No problem”*. Lo and behold, when the garlands were put on they were twice the size of the original ones!

It is said that Swami’s miracles are meant to be enjoyed and not to be scrutinised in a ridiculous scientific manner.

We become what we contemplate. By constant thought, an idea becomes implanted in the heart. If we fix our thoughts all the time on the evil that others do, our mind becomes polluted by the evil. When, on the contrary, we fix our mind on the virtues and well-being of others, our mind is cleansed of wrong and entertains only good thoughts. No evil can penetrate the mind of a person totally given to love and compassion. The thoughts in which we indulge, shape our nature; they shape ourselves as well as others. Even a thought that is momentary and trivial, will have an effect on the mind.
BABA.

The Love of Baba.

Mrs. Basha was suffering from a uterine tumor, for some time. On September 31st, 1982, her condition grew serious and she was admitted to hospital for surgery.

While being operated on, her condition took a serious turn. Her husband stood alone and friendless in the waiting room and thought of invoking divine help as his last hope. There was a picture of Shirdi Sai Baba in the room, and he offered a joss stick and a prayer before the Lord.

“Lord, am I to be a widower at this age and are my little children fated to be motherless? Lord, save me from this predicament!” he prayed.

The next moment someone patted him on the shoulder and turning around, he saw a tall old man in clean white clothes, who assured him, “Nothing amiss will befall your wife. Don’t weep!” Basha wiped his eyes and turned to respond, but the old man was nowhere to be seen! Immediately afterwards, hospital staff came to him and told him that the crisis had passed and his wife was out of danger!

His wife regained her health and Mr. Basha, that same day, installed a framed picture of the ‘immortal fakir’ in his house and started praying to Him every day.

Service springs out of LOVE and it scatters LOVE in profusion. BABA

Questions & Answers

Ramakrishna Rao asked Swami:

“Swami, should we not kill even dangerous creatures like cobras or wild animals?”

Swami, *“I reside even in them. When you realise this truth, you will not harm them also. Even when you have not realised it, you should never kill them for your pleasure; you can do it only in self-defence if they attack you. Even animals will not harm you if you have love for them in your heart.”*

The Times of India published the first interview with Swami (12th Mar. 1999), by a group of journalists from Mumbai.

Q. How do you relate yourself to Sai Baba of Shirdi?

Swami, *This body has not seen Him.*

Q. Indians are increasingly turning to godmen and godwomen. Is this a sign of growing insecurity within them? or is it something else?

Swami, *This is basically a search for God. The Divine is there within each person. The search is for this Divinity. God realisation cannot be seen as a sign of insecurity. It is a positive aspiration to be one with God. It is a good sign.*

Q. Even as mankind is relentlessly searching for God, he finds himself engulfed by more and more misery. What is the reason for this state of affairs?

Swami, *Attachment to the body is the root cause of all suffering and misery. Once this attachment ends, then one can experience Divine Bliss. There is no doubt about that. Since God does not have any bodily attachment, He does not attach any importance to the suffering of His body.*

Q. What is the best way to serve God?

Swami, *Serve the poor, the weak, the downtrodden and the underprivileged. There is Divinity in each of us, hence love*

and serve fellow human beings selflessly. Give those around you pure love.

Q. Is there no escape from human misery?

Swami, *It is all Karma. The need is to adopt the path of righteousness. One should surrender oneself to the Almighty.*

Q. Why do you perform miracles like materialising a ring, a medallion, necklace, vibhuti and other objects? What are you trying to prove by performing these miracles?

Swami, *Miracle is a cheap word for what I do. A magician performs his tricks to earn a livelihood and worldly fame. But, I materialise these talismans as My visiting cards, as evidence that Divinity can transform earth into sky and vice versa. To doubt this is to betray an inability to grasp the grandeur of the Universe. I get a lot of satisfaction while gifting these talismans to My devotees.*

Q. The suffering millions flock to you. They want to pass on their problems and suffering to you. How much of these suffering can You take on?

Swami, *I am only performing a Divine mission.*

Q. Do you have any plans to visit foreign nations and spread your message?

Swami, *No. Where there is sugar, the ants come there; the sugar does not go chasing after the ants. My first task is to clean up our own country first, then go to other countries.*

Q. Do you read newspapers?

Swami, *I never read them. Even though I do not read any newspapers, I am aware about everything that is happening round the globe. What is necessary today is that the newspapers should be more careful and responsible in their reporting. Publishing of sensational and baseless news must be avoided. No negative and baseless reporting, especially of those at the helm of affairs of the country, should be done since it has lots of repercussions abroad. If there are any doubts, then they should be cleared after free and frank discussions with the persons concerned.*

Truth should not be compromised under any circumstance.

Q. You are the chancellor of the Sathya Sai University and you attach tremendous importance to education. Why do you think that education in India has now become a mechanical exercise?

Swami, *This is because that education has been divorce from values. Education bereft of values is meaningless. The need is to restore values to education.*

Q. Who will lead the Sathya Sai movement after You?

Swami, *My devotees. God will continue to guide them.*

(Swami also spoke on His relationships with Mahatmas and Yogis who live in the Himalayan mountains)

Q. Are there any persons in the Himalayas even now?

Swami, *Yes, there are many.*

Q. Then, why do they not come to Swami? Are they not missing *darshan* of God in human form?

Swami, *I am always with them and I protect them wherever they are.*

Q. Yes, Swami. Sri Kasturi has recorded in **Sathyam Sivam Sundaram** one such instance of Swami going to the rescue of a Yogi who was in deep meditation on the banks of the river Ganges in the Himalayas. When he was about to be swept away by rising waters of the river, Swami saved him by shifting him from there.

Swami, *It is only one among many such instances, which have not come to anyone's notice. But I have not come into this world with this form for such Mahatmas and Yogis who do not need to be in My physical presence. They do not need Me since they have found Me within themselves. Also, I have not come for completely ignorant people who cannot benefit from My presence. I have come for the sake of people like you who are neither here nor there, and who can benefit from Me if they put in right effort.*

(In conclusion I offer the following question from an American devotee)

Q. Swami, we know that we love You since we feel that love in our hearts. but how do we know that Swami loves us?

Swami, *The very presence of love for Me in your heart is a sign of My love for you. None can love Me without My loving him!*

“He Has Cured My Cancer”

A devotee from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Leonardo P. Gutter, first heard about Sai Baba in 1981. He travelled to Prasanthi Nilayam with a Sai group from Argentina, and after been there for 34 days, Swami came to him in the *darshan* lines and told him, “*Yes, I will call you for an interview this afternoon.*” And so it was. During the interview Swami whispered in his ear, “*I will never disappoint My devotees!*”

Leonardo was now sure of his mission in life, -to spread the message of the Avatar, of His place in the world. He took every opportunity to speak of Him to everyone, anywhere. His wish was to return to P.N. for Bhagavan's *darshan* in September, but financial restraints prevented him.

He met a very important industrialist while on a business trip to Ecuador in July 1982 and during their conversations over lunch, and speaking of Swami's supernatural healing powers, the industrialist asked Leonardo, “Do you mind coming with me to India this September to meet Baba? If you agree I will make all the travel arrangements.”

It was while travelling to India that Leonardo was told the real purpose of his friend's trip. He wanted healing from Swami for a malignant cancer in his palate. He already had surgery but it had not helped him.

While seated for evening *darshan* the industrialist started sobbing uncontrollably. Leonardo tried to console him but he was inconsolable. After some time he exclaimed to Leonardo, “Baba is very kind! He has cured me of cancer!”

Leonardo was taken aback. He asked his friend, “What do you mean? When did Baba talk to you?” His friend replied,

“Did you not see Him coming to me a few minutes before?”

“How could it be? Baba has not come out at all!”

“Baba came to me, stood in front of me and asked me to open my mouth. Then He put His hand into my mouth pulling out something and said, ‘*You are cured!*’...I am cured!”

Upon returning to Ecuador, he was examined by his oncologist who conducted tests confirming that there was no trace of cancer!

Swami And The Marxist

Philip Mathew Prasad, was born into a highly religious and respected family, but by the age of fifteen, while at college, there was an abrupt change in his outlook. The seeds of Marxist thoughts were blowing his way, changing him into an fanatical atheist. Within two years he would be leader of the Marxist student movement and at eighteen, he was a member of the party.

Philip turned his back on his studies to become a founder member of the first All India Committee of Naxalites, formed in Calcutta in 1968. Soon he was involved in armed conflict with the police and looting landlords in the hills of Kerala. A year later he was in prison.

Alone in his prison cell, he was in a state of turmoil, and disillusioned with the path he had chosen for himself. The God he used to pray to as a child, had not deserted him now he was facing the darkest crises confronting him.

The local Sathya Sai Organisation conducted *bhajans* in the jail right outside his cell which angered him. At the end of the *bhajans*, a volunteer went up to his cell and lovingly presented him with an orange as *prasadam* through the bars. Philip was enraged and flung the orange back at its giver, hitting the back of his head. The latter turned and without anger nor fright, just walked away. This was a turning point for Philip who was deeply effected by the episode.

One night he broke down and wept uncontrollably, and through his tears prayed the ‘Lord’s prayer’, which his mother had thought him as a child. He prayed for sleep; -the boon was answered immediately. From then on, over the next four years in prison, he studied the scriptures of all the faiths, -Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, and gradually his search led him to the teachings of Sai Baba of Shirdi.

Upon his release from prison he continued his studies and qualified as a lawyer, dedicating himself to the needs of the downtrodden masses as a political activist and social worker. His feet eventually found their way to Prasanthi Nilayam where he had *darshan* of his Master. He later recalled with joy, “Swami accepted me as I was, -lock, stock and barrel, without tampering with me. That unconditional acceptance filled me with bliss. In that interview which lasted for 45 minutes, Swami repeated seventeen times, ‘Don’t taint your conscience with guilt!’ He treated me as though I was His only friend and the only person worthy of His friendship in the whole universe. How proud and selfconfident I felt! No one had accepted me before; not even my mother. The ‘world’ wanted to change me and then only accept me. But the ‘Word’, that is Swami, just embraced me as I was. This acceptance triggered a gush of tears in me, which drenched my dress and His robe. Swami wiped my tears with His handkerchief and materialised *vibhuti* and poured it into my mouth.”

Philip became an effective messenger of the Sai *Avatar* in Kerala, giving many public talks. He was to later learn the real turning point in his life was not the first interview with his Master. It was the occasion when he threw the orange at the humble servant of his Master.

It was after a talk on Sathya Sai Baba that he was invited to give to the Sai Organisation in Calicut, that an old man came up to him and insisted on inviting him to his home for coffee. The man was

Shankara Iyer, and with tears in his eyes he informed Philip that he was the volunteer who Philip hit with that well-aimed orange in the prison. Iyer was moved to pray to Swami, "Shower your mercy on this boy and transform him so that he will be happy. Maybe some day, with Your Grace, I can offer him a cup of coffee in my house!"

Swami had heard Iyer's prayer and had come to Philip's rescue. "It was around that period the breakthrough came in my life and I regained my faith in God," Philip admitted later.

Baba Provided Economic Security

(Sourced from "Tribute")

Dr. V.P. Singh, held many important positions in Management and Commerce, in Canada. He relates the following incidents in Prasanthi Nilayam during Swami's Birthday Celebrations in 1981.

"Bhagavan Baba asked me what my plans were. I replied that it was up to Him to decide. To this He replied: "You stay for Christmas," and I agreed,...when I reached my apartment that day, I found a telegram from my employer which read; "Situation with Bank of Montreal is grave. Foreclosure stalled. Come or call immediately, Yours, Dan Byran." I was very surprised as this was quite unexpected. I did not know what to do. My wife suggested that I ask Swami for guidance.

To my good fortune, Swami left that afternoon for Bangalore where I would have the privilege of sitting inside His residence during *darshan*. The very next morning I was able to hand Him the telegram. He kept it in His hands for about 5 minutes and then gave it back to me without a word. After *darshan* He called me inside His room and asked me to explain what was in the telegram. I spoke for at least half an hour and explained all the details of my relationship and position with my company. I was Executive Vice President

of Finance. Swami said: '*It looks like you are having problems with the bank*'. I answered: 'Yes, Swami.' Then Swami clenched both His fists and said: '*I have taken full responsibility for your company*', and showed me His tightly closed fists. He continued, '*Go and inform your president that you will return to Canada when you have Swami's permission, and tell him not to worry about anything as Swami has taken full responsibility. Report back to Me after speaking with your president.*'

Accordingly, I telephoned the president of my company, to relay to him Swami's message. I explained everything which our dearest Swami had told me. To my surprise, (he) replied that I should not worry about anything. The executive vice president of the bank had informed him to let me know that I should enjoy my vacation without worries and that all decisions would be postponed until my return to Canada.

The very next day, I conveyed this to Swami...He merely smiled and said, '*You are happy now? Stay until Christmas.*'

When I arrived home after Christmas, ...the bank manager informed us that he was no longer willing to do business with my company. We made arrangements to have the accounts transferred to another major bank. However, the accounts were not transferred immediately. After work the next day, while I was preparing to go home a stranger showed up in my office. He told me that he was an officer of a Trust Company and that he was interested in lending money to our business. I was astonished! Why did he think that we might be in need of money? What prompted him to visit our Office? Why did I stay late at work on that day? Strange...**Swami's miracle at work.** I provided this officer with the information...and sure enough within four days, he confirmed the approval of a five million dollar loan. When my president heard this he was not only overjoyed but also completely overwhelmed with surprise.

Swami, as He had promised, had taken care of the matter. Whatever Swami does, He does with perfection!

I had earlier contacted the Federal Minister of Agriculture, with whom I was acquainted, and had spoken to him about our problem. He spoke to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Finance in turn, communicated with the chairman of the Bank of Montreal in order to help us to find a solution. Shortly afterwards, I received a 'phone apology from the bank's Senior Vice President and a request not to transfer our accounts from the Bank of Montreal. I agreed, but on two conditions: that the interest rate of our outstanding loan be lowered and that the recent administrative charges be refunded. The Senior Vice President was happy to accept these terms and made the necessary arrangements.

So, we remained with the same bank but under much more favourable conditions. Due to Swami's Grace, I earned good name and fame in the business community...where I lived.

Therefore, dear devotees, let us take note that *Yogakshemam* can be earned by One-pointed Devotion, implicit Faith in Swami and total Surrender, as it happened in this case, Swami made the impossible, possible!

An Interview with Sai Baba:

"I see only Light and Love"

by P.F. Sloan

It was my second visit to see Sai Baba that I was granted a private interview with Him. Everyone wanted this interview, but I was very frightened by the thought of it.

Baba usually asked people, "*What do you want?*" and I really didn't know. I knew I didn't want to be forced into a situation where I would talk like a parrot out of fear and say, "I want Enlightenment! Enlighten-ment over good health or wealth." I didn't know what I wanted!

That night He came to me in a dream and said, "*I know you're frightened, don't*

be. I will show you right now everything that will take place in the interview. and I won't ask you any questions!"

True to the dream, that's what took place.

I sat in the back of the room, hiding myself...He called me to come sit in front of Him...and asked if I would please massage His feet for Him. I began to gently massage His feet while He told stories and asked questions of certain people. I watched as He waved His hand and a gold pen appeared. He showed it to me and asked if I liked it. I said it looked like good workmanship. He agreed (and) gave it to an Indian student.

He invited a small group (of us) to go into an adjoining room...He sat on a old chair...The group of 3 women and 3 men, sat quietly. I asked Baba, "May I ask you a question?" He said, "*Yes, what is it?*" It looked like relief flashed across the expression on His face. Like He was saying to me, "*It's about time, Phil!*"

"What do You see when You see me?" I asked.

"*I only see Light and Love.*" His reply seemed to warm everyone up and I went into another state of mind, and didn't hear anything else 'till we rejoined the larger group. Baba gave me 18 packets of Vibhuti, and everyone else received handfulls of it. Everyone walked out the door but me. I stood there alone with Baba. I was just looking into His eyes and He into mine, when suddenly He said, "*Yes, what is it?*" I didn't want any material thing from Baba...I just wanted to know He was for real! "*Yes*", He said.

I smiled and showed Him a small silver ring of Shirdi Sai Baba, that had recently broken. Not knowing how to ask Him directly if He would fix it for me, I said instead, "Baba, look at this ring, what shall I do with it?" He looked at it and delivered a punchline I never expected. "*If I were you, I'd keep it!*" He said.

I nearly exploded in laughter, but contained myself as He walked me out the door, and I felt the warm sunshine

disappear into a greater sunlight within me.

**For the disease of 'Bhavaroga' (birth/death cycle), Bhagavan is the medicine;
for the disease of desire, Jnana (wisdom) is the prescription;
for the disease of doubt, the most effective remedy is Paropakara (service);
for the major infection of Asanthi (anxiety), the course of treatment is Bhajan. BABA**

The Fundamental Reality

“What is man’s journey? Where is he going? Why is he continuously reborn? In order to seek the right path and knowledge of Truth. What road should we seek? You should return whence you have come. That is seeking. You have come from the Divine Essence, from God, and you must return to Him. Do not expect to find happiness in the other world; that too is impermanent. Once you have exhausted your merits, you will again be cast out of it. Even in politics, candidates are elected for a term that expires after five years. Each year that passes shortens the right he earned through the election. In the same way, the duration of your ‘paradise’ will depend upon your merits. When these are used up, you will have to return to the earth.”
BABA

Answers to Spiritual Quiz.

1.c 2.d 3.a 4.b 5.c 6.b 7.c 8.d 9.c 10.d

For Centre & Group Meetings

in Dublin, Connaught, Cork, Wexford,
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